

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Michael S. Cropper et al. Confirmation No: 9047
Serial No. : 10/687,502 Art Unit: 3763
Filed : October 15, 2003 Examiner: Not Assigned
For : IMPROVED CONICAL TROCAR SEAL

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

☒ In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

☐ In accordance with § 1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with ☐ the first or ☐ second After Final Submission, therefore:

☐ Statement in Accordance with § 1.97(e) (attached); or

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in § 1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

☐ Statement in Accordance with § 1.97(e) (attached); or

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/END5008CIP1/VCM the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with § 1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with § 1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p).

☒ Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2).

☐ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

☐ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:

☒ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

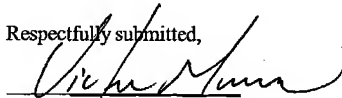
END5008CIP1

USSN: 10/687,502

☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/END5008CIP1/VCM

Respectfully submitted,



Victor C. Moreno

Reg. No. 40,732

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
September _____, 2006

Oct. 4

END5008CIP1

USSN: 10/687,502

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 5

Application Number	10/678,502
Filing Date	October 15, 2003
First Named Inventor	Michael S. Cropper et al.
Group Art Unit	Not assigned
Examiner Name	Not assigned
Attorney Docket Number	END5008CIP1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		3,504,699		Grise	04-07-1970	
		3,773,233		Souza	11-20-1973	
		4,436,519		O'Neill	03-13-1994	
		4,601,710		Moll	07-22-1986	
		4,610,665		Matsumoto et al.	09-09-1986	
		4,654,030		Moll et al.	03-31-1987	
		4,655,752		Honkamen et al.	04-07-1987	
		4,902,280		Lander	02-20-1990	
		4,931,042		Holmes et al.	06-05-1990	
		4,932,633		Johnson et al.	06-12-1990	
		5,030,206		Lander	07-09-1991	
		5,053,013		Ensminger et al.	10-01-1991	
		5,104,383		Shichman	04-14-1992	
		5,203,773		Green	04-20-1993	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	KindCode ⁵				
			EP0568383		Ethicon Inc.	11-03-1993		
			WO 94/03232		C.R. Bard, Inc.	02-17-1994		
			EP0339945		Adair	11-02-1998		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 5

Application Number	10/678,502
Filing Date	October 15, 2003
First Named Inventor	Michael S. Cropper et al.
Group Art Unit	Not assigned
Examiner Name	Not assigned
Attorney Docket Number	END5008CIP1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,209,737		Ritchart et al.	05-11-1993	
		5,211,634		Vaillancourt	05-18-1993	
		5,246,425		Hunsberger et al.	09-21-1993	
		5,300,033		Miller	04-05-1994	
		5,308,336		Hart et al.	05-03-1994	
		5,324,270		Kayan et al.	06-28-1994	
		5,342,315		Rowe et al.	08-30-1994	
		5,364,372		Danks et al.	11-15-1994	
		5,366,445		Haber et al.	11-22-1994	
		5,385,552		Haber et al.	01-31-1995	
		5,385,553		Hart et al.	01-31-1995	
		5,441,041		Sauer et al.	08-15-1995	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁴
		Office ³	Number ⁴	KindCode ⁵				
			WO/ 0035529		Syntheon, LLC	06-22-2000		
			DE10100756		Universitaetsklinikum Freiburg	08-14-2002		
			WO2004/033004		Applied Medical	04-22-2004		

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 3 of 5

Application Number	10/678,502
Filing Date	October 15, 2003
First Named Inventor	Michael S. Cropper et al.
Group Art Unit	Not assigned
Examiner Name	Not assigned
Attorney Docket Number	END5008CIP1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,456,284		Ryan et al.	10-10-1995	
		5,467,762		Sauer et al.	11-21-1995	
		5,534,009		Lander	07-09-1996	
		5,542,931		Gravener et al.	08-06-1996	
		5,569,160		Sauer et al.	10-29-1996	
		5,578,016		Zinger	11-26-1996	
		5,584,850		Hart et al.	12-17-1996	
		5,603,702		Smith et al.	02-18-1997	
		5,628,732		Antoon, Jr. et al.	05-13-1997	
		5,643,301		Mollenauer	07-01-1997	
		5,743,884		Hasson et al.	04-28-1998	
		5,792,113		Kramer et al.	08-11-1998	
		5,800,451		Buess et al.	09-01-1998	
		5,807,338		Smith et al.	09-15-1998	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 4 of 5	Application Number	10/678,502
	Filing Date	October 15, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Michael S. Cropper et al.
	Group Art Unit	Not assigned
	Examiner Name	Not assigned
	Attorney Docket Number	END5008CIP1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,895,377		Smith et al.	04-20-1999	
		6,017,356		Frederick et al.	01-25-2000	
		6,024,729		Dehdashtian et al.	02-15-2000	
		6,086,603		Termin et al.	07-11-2000	
		6,093,176		Dennis	07-25-2000	
		6,254,529	B1	Ouchi	07-03-2001	
		6,277,100	B1	Raulerson et al.	08-21-2001	
		6,302,852		Fleming, III et al.	10-16-2001	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ²
		Office ³	Number ⁴	KindCode ⁵				

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 5 of 5	Application Number	10/678,502
	Filing Date	October 15, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Michael S. Cropper et al.
	Group Art Unit	Not assigned
	Examiner Name	Not assigned
	Attorney Docket Number	END5008CIP1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		2002/0007153	A1	Wells et al.	01-17-2002	
		2002/0010425	A1	Guo et al.	01-24-2002	
		6,352,520	B1	Mizyazaki	04-05-2002	
		2003/0060770	A1	Wing et al.	03-27-2003	
		6,569,120	B1	Green et al.	05-27-2003	
		6,610,031	B1	Chin	08-26-2003	
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		2003/0187397	A1	Vitali	10-02-2003	
		6,685,630	B2	Sauer et al.	02-03-2004	
		6,702,787	B2	Racenet et al.	03-09-2004	
		2004/0049173	A1	White et al.	03-11-2004	
		2004/0064100	A1	Smith	04-01-2004	
		2004/0111060	A1	Racenet	06-10-2004	
		2004/0147949	A1	Stellon et al.	07-29-2004	
		2004/0230161	A1	Zelner	11-08-2004	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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		Office ³	Number ⁴	KindCode ⁵				

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Page 1 of 1

<i>Confirmation Number</i>	9047
<i>Application Number</i>	10/687,502
<i>Filing Date</i>	October 15, 2003
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Cropper S. Michael
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	Not Assigned
<i>Examiner Name</i>	Not Assigned
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	END-5008CIP1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

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